

dinary week. This evening we are thrilled to have them join us for the first time here at the White House.

It has been said of Aaron Neville that when he sings, "It's like a knowing angel who has experienced both Heaven and the gritty reality of a working man's life." Aaron's style reflects the lush multi-cultural mix of his native city of New Orleans. He has blended rock and funk, gospel and country, and rhythm and blues, to create the rich, exciting sound that is unmistakably all his own.

Our other guest reflects the finest spirit of our great country. Her willingness to experiment, while maintaining the best of the past has helped her sell more than 30 million recordings. By combining the mariachi sounds of Mexico, big band swing, rock and roll, Broadway, and opera, she has won devoted followers everywhere in the music world.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce Linda Ronstadt.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

### Remarks in a Teleconference on Kick Butts Day from Woodbridge, New Jersey

May 7, 1996

[The President's remarks were joined in progress.]

**The President.** —And we have proposed an FDA regulation to crack down on—[inaudible]. We've proposed ways to make it harder for children and for teenagers to buy cigarettes by reducing their access to vending machines and free samples. But we also need people who are—[inaudible]—be more rigorous. We just spoke to three young people here who said they had no trouble at all buying cigarettes. Two were 16 and one was 13, and they said the overall success rate was something like 74 percent for the students in the middle and high schools who—[inaudible]—to buy cigarettes. So we're going to have to work on that.

I just want to say that I believe that this is a problem we can solve if we work together, if we see young people like these

young people here working with their parents, their schools, their communities to fight against the lure and the availability of smoking for teenagers. And we're going to do what we can at the national level to do our part as well.

Mark Green, I want to especially thank you for your role in making today happen and for being a critical national leader on this issue; for your successful campaign to ban cigarette machines in New York City in 1990; to your leadership in organizing this national effort. You've really been a pioneer, and we're very grateful to you.

And I thought you might like to give a brief overview of this day. Can you hear me, Mark? We may have lost him.

[Mark Green, public advocate from New York City said that Kick Butts Day is an opportunity for kids to talk back and fight back against the tobacco merchants and that it is a way to discourage kids from starting to smoke. He then described the effectiveness of tobacco ads directed at children and praised Kick Butts Day as an effort to educate children.]

**The President.** Thank you very much, Mark. And I want to say again how much I appreciate the work you have been doing. You have been out there on this issue a long time, and I think the country is coming around. And I think that the young people like those who joined me here today are going to play a critical role in helping us to defeat this problem.

I would like to ask Governor Chiles of Florida, if he is on the phone, to say a few words. He has had a terrific fight in Florida in his efforts to protect children from the dangers of smoking, and I honor him for his courage and his determination not to back down in the face of intense pressure.

Governor Chiles?

[Governor Lawton Chiles said that he had a group of PRIDE children from various Florida schools with him. He added that the Florida Legislature had not overridden his veto and the Florida lawsuit against tobacco companies is going forward, adding that Florida was going to kill Joe Camel, the character used in advertisements by R.J. Reynolds Co. The Governor then introduced a student

*who indicated that smoking is bad for the whole body and that the Kick Butts campaign is a good thing.]*

**The President.** Thank you.

**Governor Chiles.** Mr. President, Lamont and myself and all the kids at Pine View and all of our PRIDE young people are just delighted to have a chance to join with you today.

**The President.** Thank you Governor. And I want to thank that young student. He did a terrific job.

I want to say again to the young people who are listening on this call, you can very often have a lot more influence on your peers than the rest of us can. And I'll keep working in Washington to do what we should be doing at the national level, but you have to do your part in making sure that in your community people don't sell cigarettes to minors, that we don't have an excessive exposure to advertising directed at young people. And you can do it. You can have an impact on your classmates not to start smoking, and we can turn this around.

So if we all work together, we'll be successful. And again, I want to thank you all for being a part of this Kick Butts Day and for being a part of a commitment to give your generation a healthy and strong future.

God bless you all, and thank you very much.

Governor Romer, are you on the phone?

**Governor Romer.** Yes, I am.

**The President.** Would you like to say a word about your efforts in Colorado?

*[Governor Roy Romer introduced Colorado, California, and Texas students active in the antismoking campaign. He then introduced a student who had participated in a Butt Out Day survey of local stores in which she found tobacco products in the same isle with candy and tobacco ads in magazines appealing to young people.]*

**Governor Romer.** Mr. President, thank you. I just wanted to give you a report from the West. I really appreciate your leadership in this effort.

**The President.** Thank you. And I want to thank Jenna and the other students for the work they did on the survey, and for their reports.

Keep after it. We'll keep working, and we'll keep moving forward. I feel very good about this. The degree of the intensity that so many young people in America feel about this issue is the most hopeful thing about it, and we just all need to stay in there with them and keep working. We can whip this thing.

Thank you all very much, in all the 11 cities on the phone, thank you very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke by telephone at 1:25 p.m. from Woodbridge High School to participants across the Nation. In his remarks, he referred to Ageno Otii, a student at Morey Middle School, Denver, CO. Due to telephone difficulties, the beginning of the President's remarks were inaudible, and a portion of the remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

## Remarks on Kick Butts Day in Woodbridge

May 7, 1996

Thank you very much. Senator Lautenberg, thank you for your presence here and your tireless efforts to help protect young people from the dangers of smoking. Mayor McGreevey, thank you for your warm welcome and your strong leadership and the powerful statement that you made today. I hope all of the citizens who elected you were listening. And Jennifer Crea, thank you. Didn't she do a terrific job? Let's give her a hand. *[Applause]* I want to thank Bill Hait from the New Jersey Cancer Institute and Dave Brown and Harry Carson from the New York Giants for appearing here before me. I thank your superintendent, Lee Seitz, and your principal, Dave Peterson, for making me feel welcome here today.

I thank the band for being here today. And I want to thank Professor John Slade and your peer leader, Pam Chesky, and the students who met with me earlier to talk about their efforts to stem the tide of teen smoking. I want to thank all of you who came up with these signs; they're great. I love this—they're great signs.

In his absence, I also want to recognize one person who is not here, the public advocate for New York City, Mark Green, who came up with the idea for this National Kick